

AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT

Please substitute the following paragraph(s) as a separate page for the abstract now appearing in the currently filed specification:

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A gelatin-free soft caramel comprising a soft caramel base mass that contains at least one polysaccharide hydrochloride as a texturing agent, a crystalline sweetener phase formed by a isomaltulose and a non-crystalline sweetener phase can be prepared by dissolving at least one soluble sweetener in water, adding at least one polysaccharide hydrochloride, fat component, emulsifier and a part of the isomaltulose, steam heating the resulting mixture, adding the remaining isomaltulose, incorporating air into the resulting mixture and cooling.